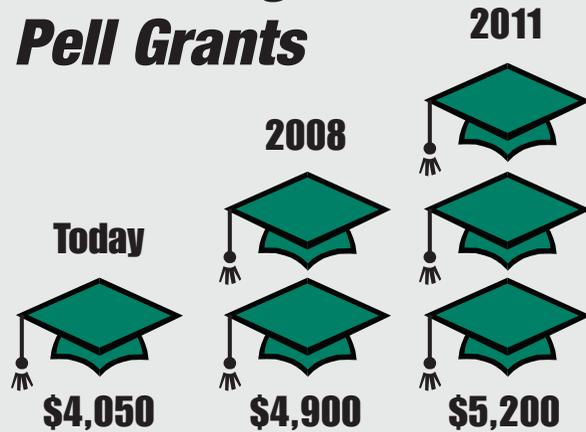


Helping Students Pay for College

This year, Congress passed the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which became law in September. This historic legislation provides the single largest increase in college aid since the GI bill—an increase of \$262 million to students and families in New Jersey alone. The new law cuts federal student loan interest rates in half over the next four years and will save the average college student about \$4,400 over the life of a loan.

The law also provides a significant boost in Pell Grant scholarships so high school students know that if they work hard, they can go to college. Before this year, Pell Grants had been stagnant for nearly four years at \$4,050. The award will now reach \$4,900 by 2008 and \$5,200 by 2011. That is an \$850 increase for students to help pay for tuition, and will benefit more than 110,000 students in New Jersey.

Increasing Pell Grants



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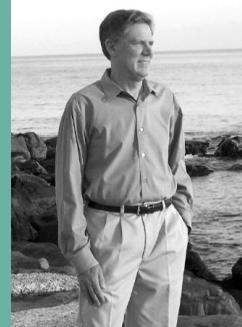
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CONGRESSMAN

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Representing the People of the Sixth District of New Jersey



Pallone Fights to Make Our Nation's Food Supply Safer

While the U.S. has one of the world's safest food supplies and some of the most stringent standards for consumer protection, recent outbreaks of contaminated foods and cases of food-borne illness demonstrate that we must do better.

Today, the Food and Drug Administration is responsible for overseeing more than 200,000 domestic food facilities and the foods that come into more than 300 ports of entry from other nations. However, the FDA has neither the authority nor the capacity it needs to oversee our nation's food supply.

Americans should be able to buy, serve and eat their food without fear of becoming ill. As the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I have introduced two bills that will dramatically improve our food inspection system both in the U.S. and abroad so that we can prevent such outbreaks from happening in the first place.

My **Consumer Food Safety Act** gives the FDA the tools it needs to better protect our nation's food supply. The legislation:

- ★ establishes strict inspection procedures to prevent contamination at food processing facilities;
- ★ requires the FDA to set standards for sanitation and limits the level of contaminants in food;
- ★ provides the FDA with the resources it needs to increase the number of inspections at facilities; and
- ★ requires all food processing facilities to register annually to ensure continuous monitoring and safe food production.

I am also a lead sponsor of the **Food and Drug Import Safety Act**, which ensures that products from other countries are only permitted to enter the U.S. if they meet our strict safety standards. It also creates new and strict inspection guidelines that would need to be passed at any port of entry.



Better Informing the Public About Food Recalls

In September, Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, which I co-authored. The

new law will make it easier for you to find out important information about food recalls.

To get the latest recall information visit:

www.FoodSafety.gov

Protecting America's Children

Pallone Supports Efforts to Strengthen Toy Safety Laws

Toys are meant to entertain, educate and inspire the imagination. Unfortunately, not all toys are entirely safe. Shocking reports over the past few months have revealed that American children are at risk because of lead paint in imported toys and recalls of faulty products. It is clear that the need to strengthen our consumer product safety laws is greater than ever.



After a press conference to highlight dangerous children's toys, Congressman Pallone visits with children at a daycare center.

Over the past six years, the Bush administration has underfunded consumer safety while toy sales have soared. Toy imports from China have increased from \$12 billion in 2001 to \$21 billion this year. Meanwhile, President Bush has cut funding for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) by almost \$10 billion since 2001. This important consumer agency has suffered from neglect and disinterest for nearly a decade.

CPSC funding is so inadequate that its commissioner admits that there

is only one lonely toy tester within her department. That is why, in recent months, the new Democratic Congress has made consumer protection a top priority. The Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Services Appropriations Bill increases funding for CPSC by 6.6 percent and increases the number of agency employees by 5 percent.

But we are not stopping there. This month, the Energy & Commerce Committee, of which I'm a senior member, passed wide-ranging toy and child product safety legislation. I fully support these legislative efforts, which:

- ★ ban lead in children's products;
- ★ require independent third-party testing on children's products before any product is certified as "safe;"
- ★ strengthen CPSC's authority to order recalls of hazardous toys;
- ★ increase criminal penalties for corporations that knowingly put hazardous products on the market; and

continued on next page

Committed to Strengthening NJ FamilyCare



As the Chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health, one of my top priorities is to strengthen the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known in New Jersey as FamilyCare. CHIP provides health coverage to children whose parents earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford the cost of insurance on the private market.

This fall, Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate worked together and passed the CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2007. The legislation, which I helped write, would:

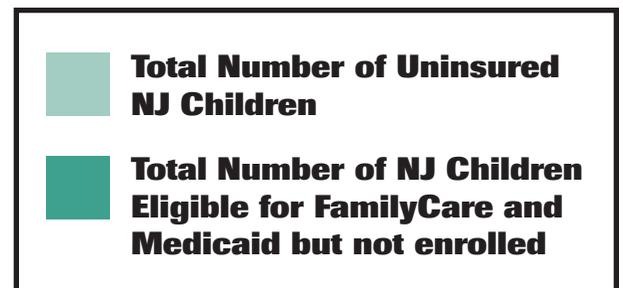
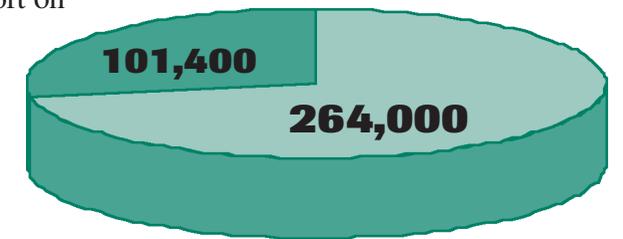
- ★ ensure that ten million children have access to health insurance, four million more than today;
- ★ cover the lowest income children by benefiting those who come from families with incomes below \$40,000 a year; and
- ★ give states new tools and financial resources to conduct outreach and facilitate enrollment.

While this bill received strong bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, President Bush chose to veto the legislation. By doing so, the president is hampering our ability to cover even current enrollees, let alone other uninsured children.

When children do not have health insurance they are unable to receive preventative care. Our nation has a responsibility to ensure all children have the resources to grow up healthy, so they can do well in education and in life.

I will keep working in Congress to strengthen CHIP for children in New Jersey and across the nation, and to enact this important legislation into law.

For more information on NJ FamilyCare or to see if your family is eligible, visit www.njfamilycare.org or call **1-800-701-0710**.



Protecting America's Children *continued*

- ★ provide the CPSC with more resources to improve testing and research facilities.

Families should not have to worry that the toys their children play with are poisoning them or could be dangerous because of a design flaw. Congress needs to protect our children and restore consumer confidence. Even one toy-related death is too many, because these deaths are preventable.